

Uganda Closing

Excellencies, dear Colleague, it is a pleasure for Uganda to lead the Committee on Victim Assistance in 2023. Uganda knows only too well the challenges in implementation.

During 2022, the Committee identified a number of priorities for implementation. I wanted to share some of these with you today.

1. The Committee will continue prioritising regular and improved reporting by States Parties with mine victims in areas under their jurisdiction or control by 30 April of each year and will encourage in particular those that have not submitted Article 7 Report and/or have not provided information on VA implementation efforts in 2022 to submit reports as soon as possible. The Committee will continue supporting States Parties in strengthening the quality of reports including by encouraging the employment of the Guide to Reporting and the VA Checklist.
2. The Committee will continue to raise awareness about the importance of continued efforts to strengthen the integration of victim assistance commitments into broader frameworks such as disability, human rights, health, education, development, poverty reduction, humanitarian response and other relevant frameworks such as the CRPD.
3. As 2022 marks midterm implementation of the OAP and in accordance with its analyses of progress and shortcomings in implementing the VA commitments under the OAP, the Committee has identified a number of actions which we will focus on.
4. The Committee will assist and encourage the States Parties with ongoing casualties in their efforts to enhance the provision of emergency medical care and to strengthen measures that protect the safety of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities in situations of emergency.
5. The Committee will continue supporting national dialogues to strengthen implementation support for VA, including by making use of the European Union Council Decision in support of the implementation of the VA related aspects of the OAP.
6. The Committee will continue to support greater attention to the consideration of gender and diversity in VA activities. The Committee will continue to encourage States Parties to report how their implementation efforts ensure that the different needs, situations and perspectives of affected women, girls, boys and men are considered.

Uganda look forward to working with Italy, the ICBL and ICRC and the incoming member of the Committee to further implementation efforts regarding victim assistance.

I once gain thank my colleagues that are outgoing - Belgium and Ecuador - for their friendship and support to Uganda. We look forward to continue working with you.

Thank you your Mr. President.